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Extensive U.S. naval maneuvers were underway in the Caribbean, involving about 40 ships, 20,000 men and carrier-based aircraft. This caused much speculation that the U.S. might be about to make a major move in the Cuban crisis. The official explanation for a U.S. military buildup in the Florida-Caribbean area in recent days was that the U.S. is holding its annual naval maneuvers off Puerto Rico.

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Former President Eisenhower said he doesn't think the Kennedy Administration's current foreign policy should be a campaign issue, but he defended the GOP's right to discuss policy matters "that are history" and "long-range implications of U.S. foreign policy. Speaking on ABC-TV's Politics '63, he said he brought up Cuba and Berlin in a recent Boston speech because Kennedy had sought to blame the Eisenhower Administration for letting the crisis develop.

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